

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 582

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2005

Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Little Rock Central
5 High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemo-
6 rative Coin Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) September 2007, marks the 50th anniversary
2 of the desegregation of Little Rock Central
3 High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

4 (2) In 1957, Little Rock Central High School
5 was the site of the first major national test for the
6 implementation of the historic decision of the United
7 States Supreme Court in *Brown, et al. v. Board of*
8 *Education of Topeka, et al.*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

9 (3) The courage of the “Little Rock Nine” (Er-
10 nest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Melba Pattilo, Jef-
11 ferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts,
12 Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed and Minnie Jean
13 Brown), who stood in the face of violence, was influ-
14 ential to the Civil Rights movement and changed
15 American history by providing an example on which
16 to build greater equality.

17 (4) The desegregation of Little Rock Central
18 High School by the 9 African American students
19 was recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as
20 such a significant event in the struggle for civil
21 rights that in May 1958, he attended the graduation
22 of the first African American from Little Rock Cen-
23 tral High School.

1 (5) A commemorative coin will bring national
2 and international attention to the lasting legacy of
3 this important event.

4 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

5 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
6 ury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint
7 and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, each of which
8 shall—

- 9 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
10 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
11 (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent
12 copper.

13 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
14 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
15 title 31, United States Code.

16 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
17 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
18 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
19 matic items.

20 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

21 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The design of the
22 coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
23 desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School and
24 its contribution to civil rights in America.

1 (b) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin
2 minted under this Act there shall be—

- 3 (1) a designation of the value of the coin;
4 (2) an inscription of the year “2007”; and
5 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
6 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
7 “E Pluribus Unum”.

8 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
9 under this Act shall be—

- 10 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation
11 with the Commission of Fine Arts; and
12 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
13 Committee established under section 5135 of title
14 31, United States Code.

15 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

16 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
17 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

18 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
19 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality
20 of the coins minted under this Act.

21 (c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary
22 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January
23 1, 2007, except that the Secretary may initiate sales of
24 such coins, without issuance, before such date.

1 (d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No
2 coins shall be minted under this Act after December 31,
3 2007.

4 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

5 (a) SALE PRICE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
6 sion of law, the coins issued under this Act shall be sold
7 by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of the face
8 value of the coins, the surcharge required under section
9 7(a) for the coins, and the cost of designing and issuing
10 such coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
11 ery, overhead expenses, and marketing).

12 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
13 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
14 discount.

15 (c) PREPAID ORDERS AT A DISCOUNT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
17 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
18 before the issuance of such coins.

19 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
20 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
21 sonable discount.

22 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

23 (a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales shall include
24 a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

1 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
2 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are re-
3 ceived by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under
4 this Act shall be equally divided and promptly paid by the
5 Secretary to—

6 (1) the Jefferson National Parks Association
7 for the purpose of providing support for programs
8 and other developmental activities at the Little Rock
9 Central High National Historic Site and support for
10 the ongoing mission of the Little Rock Central High
11 National Historic Site; and

12 (2) the Secretary of the Interior for site im-
13 provements at the Little Rock Central High Na-
14 tional Historic Site, including the establishment of
15 cooperative agreements to preserve and restore the
16 historic character of the vicinity in the historic site's
17 boundaries.

18 (c) AUDITS.—The Jefferson National Parks Associa-
19 tion shall be subject to the audit requirements of section
20 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard
21 to the amounts received by the Association under sub-
22 section (b).

23 (d) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—The surcharges pro-
24 vided to the Secretary of the Interior under this section
25 are intended by the Congress to supplement amounts pro-

1 vided to such Secretary in appropriation Acts for the Lit-
2 tle Rock Central High National Historic Site and are not
3 intended to be a substitute for such appropriated amounts.

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